

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Previously, claim 6 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-5 and 7-13 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over one of US Patent 6,203,467 to Yamamoto (hereinafter Yamamoto) or US Patent 6,746,364 to Imanishi (hereinafter Imanishi), in view of US Patent 5,382,099 to Bauer et al. (hereinafter Bauer).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to disclose all of the elements as now set forth in the claim. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite a line filter disposed in the oil passage, and to recite that the filter disposed in an exit side of the oil passage has a rougher mesh than the line filter. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 18, lines 7-11, and page 27, lines 11-20.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, as amended, the references fail to disclose the relative roughness in the meshes of the filters. Accordingly, even if the references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still fail to disclose a line filter in the oil passage, and a second filter disposed in the exit side of the oil passage, wherein the second filter has a rougher mesh than the line filter, as claimed.

For at least the above reason, Yamamoto, Imanishi, and Bauer, fail to render obvious Applicants' claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 23, 2007